

In the Claims

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-20 are rejected.

Explanation of Amendments in the Claims:

1. (presently amended) A ventilation system comprising:

an envelope ~~including~~ comprising an outer shell which surrounds a hollow interior of the envelope and which includes a central portion which is suitably sized and arranged to support a head of a patient thereon;

~~at least one~~ two breathable surface ~~portion~~ portions located in the outer shell along opposite side edges of the envelope such that the central portion spans between the pair of breathable surface portions and such that the breathable surface portions are arranged to extend along opposite sides of a face of the patient, each of the breathable surface portions being configured to allow ~~allowing~~ gas to pass from a surrounding area of the envelope to the hollow interior through ~~said at least one~~ the breathable surface portion of the envelope;

a suction port coupled to the envelope in communication with the hollow interior of the envelope;

a channel formed in the hollow interior of the envelope which is generally U-shaped about the central portion of the envelope, the channel comprising a pair of side portions in communication with respective ones of the breathable surface portions and a base portion extending between the side portions;

the suction port being coupled to the envelope so as to be laterally centered between the opposite side edges of the envelope in communication with the base portion of the U-shaped channel; and

a suction means for device in communication with the suction port and arranged for drawing gas from the surrounding area and into the suction port, through said at least one ~~the~~ breathable surface portion ~~portions~~ of the envelope;

the outer shell being formed of material which is impermeable to gas and which is only open at the breathable surface portions arranged to extend along opposite sides of the

face of the patient and at the suction port.

2. (cancelled)

3. (presently amended) The system according to Claim 2 1 wherein each breathable surface portion is elongate in a respective longitudinal direction lying substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the other breathable surface portion.

4. (presently amended) The system according to Claim 2 1 wherein the breathable surface portions are raised in relation to ~~—a—~~ the central portion spanning therebetween which is flexible.

5. (presently amended) The system according to Claim 2 1 wherein there is provided a support structure supporting the breathable surface portions raised above a bottom side of the envelope.

6. (presently amended) The system according to Claim 1 wherein ~~said at least one~~ each breathable surface portion is located only in an upper side of the envelope.

7. (cancelled)

8. (presently amended) The system according to Claim 7 1 wherein both the outer shell and ~~said at least one~~ the breathable surface ~~portion~~ portions are formed of pliable material.

9. (cancelled)

10. (presently amended) The system according to Claim 9 1 wherein there is provided a support structure supporting the central portion suspended above a bottom side of the envelope.

11. (presently amended) The system according to Claim 9 1 wherein there is provided a selectively separable cover supported on an upper side of the envelope, spanning between the breathable surface portions which are commonly located in the upper side of the envelope.

12. (original) The system according to Claim 1 wherein there is provided a

support structure supporting an upper side of the envelope spaced above a lower side of the envelope.

13. (original) The system according to Claim 12 wherein at least a portion of the upper side of the envelope is flexible.

14. (presently amended) The system according to Claim 12 wherein the support structure comprises an internal support structure surrounded by the envelope which supports upper and lower sides of the envelope spaced from one another spanning between the suction port and ~~said at least one~~ each breathable surface portion.

15. (original) The system according to Claim 14 wherein the envelope is fully flexible.

16. (cancelled)

17. (original) The system according to Claim 12 wherein the support structure comprises stiff material integrally formed with the envelope.

18. (original) The system according to Claim 17 wherein a bottom side and a pair of opposed upright side walls of the envelope are formed of said stiff material.

19. (original) The system according to Claim 18 wherein the upper portion of the envelope is flexible and spans the upright side walls.

20. (presently amended) The system according to Claim 18 wherein ~~there is provided one of said at least one~~ the breathable surface portions is located adjacent each of the upright side walls.